

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20508**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 8, 2000**

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**USTR Barshefsky Hails House Ways and Means Committee Vote on WTO**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today hailed the 35-0 vote by the House Ways and Means Committee to reject a resolution that would withdraw Congressional support for continued U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization.

“Today’s vote in support of the WTO reinforces how critical it is that the U.S. remains a leader of the global trading system, and I commend the Ways and Means committee for its decisive action,” said Ambassador Barshefsky.

“As the world’s largest importer and exporter, the U.S. has benefitted more than any other country from the WTO and its framework of rules designed to ensure that our products and services receive fair and predictable treatment around the world. U.S. membership in the WTO helps advance American competitiveness in agriculture, manufacturing and high technology industries, advances the rule of law in commerce, and promotes stability in times of economic crisis.”